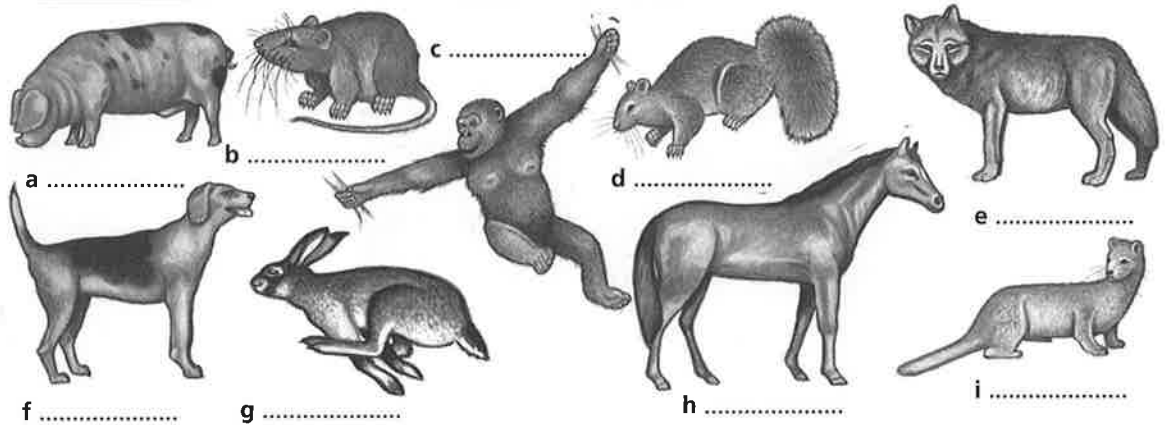


# Horsing around

## Animals

1a Label the animals below with the words in the box. Then answer the questions.

ape ferret hare hog horse hound rat squirrel wolf



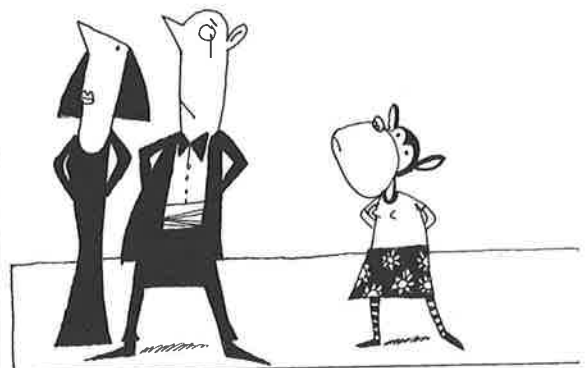
Is a hog a type of pig? Or is a pig a type of hog? .....  
 Is a dog a type of hound? Or is a hound a type of dog? .....

1b What habits and qualities do you associate with the animals in 1a? Discuss your ideas with other students. Do you all agree?

2a The animal words in 1a and 1b can be used as verbs or as part of phrasal verbs that describe different kinds of human behaviour. Look at these cartoons and complete each caption with an animal word.



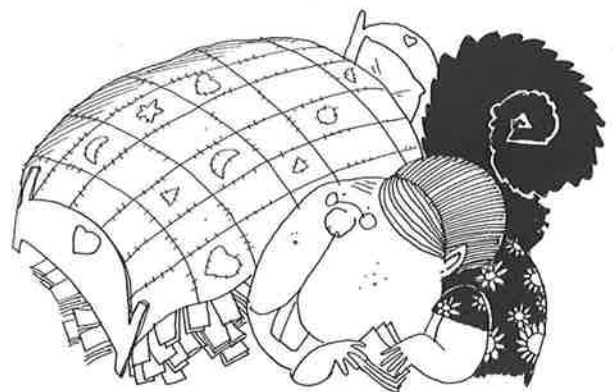
a 'Stop ..... around or you'll break something!'



b 'She was always trying to ..... those she felt to be her social superiors.'



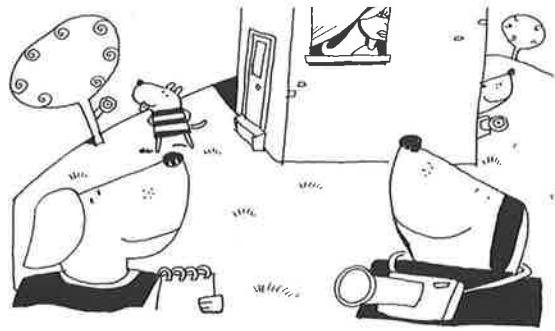
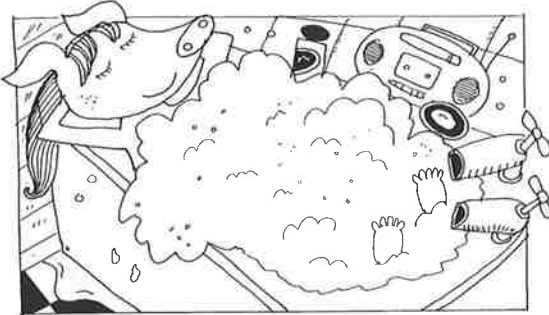
c The police arrested the man for smuggling after one of the gang ..... on him.



d She didn't believe in banks, and preferred to ..... away all her money under her mattress.

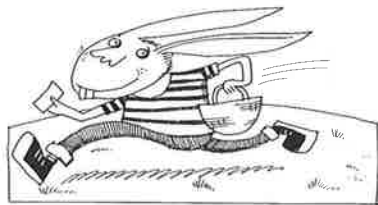
# Horsing around

## Animals



e What irritates me most about my teenage daughter is the way she ..... the bathroom for hours on end, so that nobody else can use it.

f She has been relentlessly ..... by the press since her marriage broke up.



g He went ..... off to the shops before I could even tell him what we needed.

h They were so hungry they that they ..... down their lunch in a few minutes.

i Years later, he managed to ..... out the details of his father's real name and date of birth!

### 2b Match the verbs in the box with the definitions below.

to ape somebody   to ferret (something) out   to hare off   to hog something  
to horse around/about   to hound somebody   to rat on somebody  
to squirrel (something) away   to wolf (something) down

- a to keep something in a safe place so you can use it later .....
- b to run away very fast .....
- c to eat something quickly and in big pieces .....
- d to act or play roughly and noisily .....
- e to copy somebody's behaviour in a silly way .....
- f to betray somebody, especially by telling somebody in authority about something wrong that person has done .....
- g to keep or use something selfishly .....
- h to discover a piece of information that is usually difficult to get .....
- i to keep following somebody and disturbing them .....

2c How many of the verbs in the list can you translate into your own language? Do they have the same meaning in your language that they have in English?

2d Complete the following paragraph in pairs by using at least three of the animal verbs from the list in 2b.

*I'm glad that Bill Lane has finally left the company. I really disliked the way he was always hogging the one phone that we share in the office. He*

.....  
.....  
.....

# Horsing around

## Animals

**3a** The adjectives in the box are all connected with different animals. They are used to describe people, either their looks or their behaviour. Discuss what you think the words mean.

catty cocky mousy mulish owlsh sheepish

**3b** Which of the adjectives in 3a would you use to describe the following people?

- My brother's one of those people who simply refuses to change his plans or his attitude for anyone else. Stubborn? Yes. Unreasonable? Definitely. ....
- He had a faintly professorial look to him with his round, intelligent face, horn-rimmed glasses and serious expression. ....
- He annoys all the staff, because for a trainee he's too confident about his own abilities, and as a result frequently unpleasant and rude. ....
- I've no time for her because she often makes spiteful remarks to people, which are intended to hurt them. ....
- I must have looked a bit uncomfortable, because I felt rather foolish after doing something as silly as that! ....
- She was a shy, quiet and unattractive woman who was dominated by her elderly mother. ....

**3c** Think of somebody you know who reminds you of one of the animal adjectives in 3b. Describe this person to another student, and explain why he or she reminds you of the animal adjective.

**4** Read the proverbs below. Choose one and write a short fable which illustrates it. Do not include the proverb in your fable, although you may want to include a moral at the end of your fable. Read your fable out. The other students have to guess which proverb it illustrates.

- A leopard cannot change its spots.
- When the cat's away, the mice will play.
- A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush.
- You can't teach an old dog new tricks.
- You can take a horse to water, but you can't make it drink.

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